



# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: JAIL REPORT, PRISON POPULATION, AND PROGRAMMING

EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
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ISSUE BRIEF

## **SUMMARY**

In making budget decisions about the Department of Corrections there is key information that allows for more educated decisions. The main cost drivers of the Department are the prison population and adult probation and parole (AP&P) populations and related resources to manage the populations. These populations require significant resources in the form of correctional officers, housing, food, transportation, treatment, and so forth. In general, the greater these populations, the more resources may need to be expended, and conversely the smaller the population the fewer resources may need to be used.

Some important information to make these budget decisions include the:

1. Jail Report,
2. Prison Population Projections, and
3. Programming Services (which potentially affects the overall prison population).

Depending on the current status of these factors and others the Legislature may want to consider the following questions:

1. How do the updated Jail Report figures, namely the “average state daily incarceration rate” help inform where the Legislature sets the “final state daily incarceration rate”? (This “final” rate is used to generate the rate the State pays counties for the Jail Contracting).
2. What are the short-term and long term prison population trends and how does the State appropriately plan and budget for these?
3. How much do programming services affect the prison population (that is, do they reduce the rate at which prisoners return to prison)?
4. What is the right balance of resources for different services such as substance abuse treatment, work programs, education, and others?

## **BACKGROUND**

The Jail Report, Prison Population projections and programming services are some chief decision-making information when deciding the proper balance of resources for the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections will present the aforementioned material.

The Jail Report is a statutorily required report (64-13e-106) submitted annually by the Department of Corrections to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee regarding “housing of state inmates, state parole inmates, and state probationary inmates” in county jails and details related costs.